

# Warning: Don't Fall Victim To 'Jury Duty' ID Scam

## Caller Preys On Your Fears, Tries For Your Personal Info

*by Tony Aiello*

WHITE PLAINS (CBS) —

AP

A Dutchess County woman appears to be the latest victim in a long-running identity theft scam. It all starts with a frightening phone call, warning you may be in contempt of court for missing jury duty.

The Westchester County commissioner of jurors says the scam artist then asks you to reveal personal information, including date of birth and social security number.

It's all in an effort to steal your identity. The "Jury Duty" scam first appeared years ago, but seems to be making a comeback.

"They'll call and say you failed to report for jury duty, you may be in contempt of court," said Commissioner of Jurors Frances Tursi said.

In recent weeks a woman in Dutchess County got that scam phone call about jury duty and, unfortunately, gave up her personal information.

Kerry O'Brien, director of the Yonkers Consumer Protection Bureau, says the scam preys on people's fears about missing jury duty.

"They don't want to break the law or get into trouble so they're answering the questions," O'Brien said.

"Unfortunately, these are the people who are falling victims."

Added Tursi: "They would give up information, and then call us afterwards to say they were nervous, after the call, realized they made a mistake."

It's a big mistake because court officials would never call to ask for personal information.

"We never ask that information and that should never be given over the phone," Tursi said.

Tursi says if someone calls to claim you missed jury duty, hang up and report the call to local police.

A recent study found that more than 800,000 New Yorkers are victims of identity theft every year.

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